

Spark Gap

Vol. 27, Issues 12, December, 2010 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-Six Years*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The officers of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year with good DX.

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### STATE WIDE R.A.C.E.S. COMMUNICATION TEST

The State communication test will be held on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 0900. Don West IDHS Communication Director stated the following;

- “ **Amateur Radio Communication Modes**
  - o **Voice/Digital** - While IDHS Communications continues to pursue the goal of a **text-based, Internet independent, error-checking and unattended operation system** as the best support that Amateur Radio can provide to Emergency Management Agencies it serves, progress continues to be painfully slow.
  - o **Near-term** - In light of this fact, it is likely that much of the Amateur Radio Support Communications will take place in voice format with the intent to enter that information into WebEOC as soon as it reaches an area where the Internet is still functional.
  - o **Long-term** – The long-term goal remains to assist the Amateur Radio Community to build a **sustainable text-based, Internet independent, error-checking and unattended operation system.**
- **WebEOC & Amateur Radio** – In light of this strategy, Emergency Management Agencies are encouraged to make WebEOC available to their Amateur Radio Support Team Members.
- **Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan** –
  - o The advent of the upcoming National Level Exercise in May 2011 (NLE '11) has provided both incentive and a realistic scenario around which a realistic Amateur Radio Communicants Plan can be written.
  - o IDHS Communications is asking Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Indiana Red Cross, Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), the INDOT Amateur Radio Team, Civil Air Patrol, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Integrated Public Safety Commission Amateur Radio Team and other interested parties to participate in the development and execution of the plan.
- **Timing** – I would like to publish a draft to EMA Directors and the Amateur Radio EMA Support Community, for comment by the end of January. Summarize the comments by the end of the second week of February; publish an “Interim” Plan by the first week of March, and dry run the plan at the end of March and April before the NLE '11 Exercise.”

We live in a changing world of communication with new challenges and new approaches in helping the citizens of Johnson County.

# ***FCC News: New Rules Governing Vanity, Club Station Call Signs to Take Effect February 14, 2011***

On Wednesday, December 15, new rules affecting vanity and club station call signs within the Amateur Radio Service were published in the *Federal Register*. These new rules will go into effect on February 14, 2011. Thirteen months ago, the FCC announced its intention to modify Part 97 as it applies to the vanity call sign system and club station call signs, aligning the rules to prior Commission decisions.

Last month, the Commission released a *Report and Order* (R&O), outlining its decision. Along with the changes to the call sign rules, the FCC made "certain minor, non-substantive amendments" to portions of Part 97.

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**From John Poindexter, W3ML  
ARRL Section Manager for Indiana**

Hello Members,

Just recently, I was informed by Tony, W9AL that he would be leaving the position of Section Emergency Coordinator due to personal reasons.

With this happening, I am collecting a list of names of any volunteers that feel they have the qualifications in the Emergency Communication area to fulfill this position.

The job description on the ARRL site is located here:  
<http://www.arrl.org/section-emergency-coordinator> Besides what is written on the website, there are some Indiana requirements as well.

If you are interested in applying, send me an e-mail detailing your experience and training. I will add your name to the list for further consideration.

My e-mail is [w3ml@arrlo.org](mailto:w3ml@arrlo.org)

You must be an ARRL member in good standing and have been for a continuous term of at least two years immediately preceding any appointment.

73  
John, W3ML

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ARRL Indiana Section  
Section Manager: John M Poindexter, W3ML  
[w3ml@arrl.org](mailto:w3ml@arrl.org)

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# 2010 & 2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2010

### 18 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

### 25 Christmas Day

## JANUARY 2011

### 16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

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### **WA9RDF**

#### **Repeater**

**146.835/**

**146.235 MHz**

**151.4 Hz PL**

**Tone**

**Weekly Net Sunday Evening 7:00 PM**

### **Club Officers:**

**President: Steve Carmean - K9DY**

**Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT**

**Secretary: Robert Jones – KC9NJM**

**Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**

**Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP**

***The Official  
Newsletter of the  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month  
Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club***

Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***  
***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than***